



IN THE LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> century, medical students routinely carried walking sticks, and when commencement rolled around, they would ask their friends to carve their names or initials on them, much as later generations solicited autographs for their yearbooks.

I am privileged to have a walking stick from that era in my office. It bears the inscription “W.J. Mayo,” carved by Wil-

liam James Mayo, who received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1883 and went on to co-found the Mayo Clinic. The walking stick that bears his name serves as a constant reminder to me of the storied history and impact our medical school enjoys — not just nationally, but globally.

The legacy of leadership in medicine and medical education that was established by those who came before is now entrusted to us to sustain and enhance for future generations. It is important for us to thoughtfully consider the important issues and social problems of our time. It is our responsibility to help lead the quest for solutions and improve health care, research and medical education.

The Medical School’s decision to forego corporate funding for continuing medical education emanates from this tradition of leadership. The integrity of our physicians must be beyond question for our patients, students, residents and community. Even the appearance of conflict of interest can jeopardize that trust. We want the William Mayos of the future to choose Michigan with confidence, and our patients to never doubt our ability to provide the best clinical care possible.

Sincerely,

JAMES O. WOOLLISCROFT, M.D. (Residency 1980)  
*Dean, U-M Medical School*  
*Lyle C. Roll Professor of Medicine*

# Medicine at Michigan

Published three times a year by the U-M Medical School and the Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations, 301 E. Liberty St., Suite 400, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104-2251, (734) 998-7705, [medicineatmichigan@umich.edu](mailto:medicineatmichigan@umich.edu).

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